VI. *A Species of* ſubterraneous Fire, *obſerv'd in the* ſame County; *communicated in a Letter to* Dr. Jurin, *by* Robert Nesbitt, M.D. *Coll. Med. Lond. Lic.*

SIR,

I Here ſend, as you deſired, the beſt Account I can of a Species of *ſubterraneous Fire*, which was firſt taken notice of on the ſecond of *Auguſt* laſt, in a *Marſhy-Field* ſituated in the Pariſh of *Flinx-Hill*, about ten or twelve Miles South Weſt of *Canterbury* in the County of *Kent*.

This Fire began on the ſide of a little Brook near the Water, and continu'd to burn along its Bank, without ſpreading much for ſome Days. Afterwards it appeared on the other ſide, and extended it ſelf the ſpace of ſome Acres over the Field, conſuming all the Earth, where it burnt, into red Aſhes quite down to the Springs; which in moſt places lay four Feet or more deep. On the twenty fourth of *September* I went to ſee it, and found it had conſumed, as well as I cou'd gueſs by my Eye, about three Acres of Ground.

It then burnt in many Places, and ſent forth a great Smoak and ſtrong Smell, very like to that of a Brick-Kiln. It never flamed but when the Earth was turn'd and ſtirred. For ſome ſpace round where it was burning, the Ground felt hot, tho' the Graſs ſeemed no more parch'd than might reaſonably be expected from the Dryneſs and Heat of the Seaſon. I cauſed it to be turn'd up in ſeveral Places, and found the Earth hot and

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and wet near four Feet deep, and much hotter about two feet than near the Surface.

When this Earth was expoſed to the Air, tho' it was very moiſt and not hotter than you might eaſily bear with your Hand, the Heat increas'd ſo faſt, that in a few Minutes it was all over on Fire, like *Phoſphorus* made with *Allom* and *Flower*.

The Soil of the Field is of the ſame nature with that they make the *Turf* of in *Holland*; the Surface of it is always wet, except in extream dry Seaſons. This Year it was ſomewhat more parched and harder than uſual.

I believe, from what has been related, it is not more difficult to account for this Fire, than for thoſe Fires which often happen in *Hay-ricks* when Hay is ſtacked before it is thoroughly made.

P. S. I ſend you a Piece of the Earth, and ſome of the Aſhes. I ſhould have mentioned, that I took ſeveral Pieces of the Earth, before I was able to bring one away, becauſe of its firing; one Piece, in particular, I gave to my Servant, which firing in his Pocket, had almoſt burnt its way out before it was perceived.

I am, &c.